(b) what is the export growth of the country in the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is thinking of any new market approach; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes Sir, a medium term export strategy has been announced recently for the period 2002-07 which aims at achieving 1% share in world export by the year 2006-07.

(b) As per latest data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, export growth rate of the merchandise goods during the last three years are given as under:—

(In US $)

Year	Growth Rate(%)
1999-2000	10.8
2000-2001	19.6
2001-2002 (P)	-0.08

(P) Provisional figures.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, in the Medium Term Export Strategy, 2002-07 products with export potential have been identified by examining the import basket of major trading partners and India's export basket and more focussed region-specific market approach has also been incorporated. The Market Access Initiative Scheme has also been introduced with this intention.

India's failure to implement the patent provisions

5004. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States have stepped up pressure to designate India as a priority foreign country under the American Special 301 provisions;

(b) if so, whether this is because of failure of India to implement the requisite patent provisions by 2000 as spelt out in the World Trade Organisation's trade related intellectual property rights agreement;

(c) if so, the reasons for India's failure to implement the same; and

(d) whether any effort in future are being made to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) In its annual Special 301 report for 2002, released by United States Trade Representative (USTR), India has been retained in the priority watch list alongwith fourteen other countries for, *inter-alia*, not providing an adequate level of protection for intellectual property rights.

(b) to (d) In order to comply with India's international obligations in respect of patents contained in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, a Bill to amend the Patents Act, 1970 has been passed by Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 2002 and is now to be considered by Lok Sabha.

Textile case against US

5005. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India would take US to WTO body in textile cases as reported in the Indian Express, dated the 16th April, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) On 11 January, 2002 India requested formal consultations with the United States under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regarding the changes in rules of origin for textiles and apparel products set out in the United States' Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Trade and Development Act of 2000. India has questioned the compatibility of the changes with the provisions of the Agreement on Rules of Origin according to which rules of origin shall not themselves create restrictive, distorting or disruptive effects on international trade, shall not be discriminatory, and shall be administered in a consistent, uniform, impartial and reasonable manner. Formal consultations have been held with the United States on 7 February 2002 and 26 March 2002.

Money Laundering Bill

5006. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring offences under Customs Act, 1962 and Income Tax Act under the purview of the proposed Money Laundering Bill;